

**REMARKS**

Reconsideration of the above identified application in view of the preceding amendments and following remarks is respectfully requested. Claims 1-6, 8-10 and 12-18 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, Applicants have amended Claims 1, 5, 8-10 and 11, and cancelled Claims 7 and 11 without prejudice. It is respectfully submitted that no new matter has been introduced by these amendments, as support therefor is found throughout the specification and drawings.

In the Office Action dated April 23, 2003, original Claims 7 and 11 were indicated as allowable subject matter if rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. In accordance with the Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter, Claim 5 has been rewritten in independent form to include the limitations of original Claims 1, 5 and 7. Claim 10 has been rewritten to include the limitations of original Claim 11. Accordingly, independent Claims 5 and 10 are now in condition for allowance and such action is respectfully requested.

In the Office Action, Claims 1, 3-6, 8, 9, 10, 12 and 13 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over U.S. Patent No. 5,461,397 to Zhang et al. In view of the amendments herein, the Examiner's grounds for rejection are herewith traversed, and withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Zhang et al. merely teach independent discharge control of gas discharge tunnels with time sequential color mixing to produce color images without the use of a color filter. Zhang et al. disclose introducing an amount of priming charged particles to reduce the ignition voltage applied to the discharge electrodes and increase starting reliability s(see col. 5, lines 3-8). Zhang et al. teach an illumination device that is repeatedly turned off and restarted.

In contrast, amended Claim 1 recites an illumination control device including, *inter alia*, at least one illumination device for irradiating light which is generated through discharging and a driving waveform generation section wherein during the first period, the driving waveform generation section applies a first voltage to the at least one illumination device, and during the second period, the driving waveform

generation section applies a second voltage such that the illumination device is not completely turned off. Not completely turning off the illumination device reduces excessive voltage components which may be present at the beginning of the discharging and controls the number of electrons sputtered resulting in improved life characteristics. Zhang et al. do not disclose or suggest such a structural configuration. Accordingly, Claim 1 and each of the claims depending therefrom distinguishes the subject invention from Zhang et al. and withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

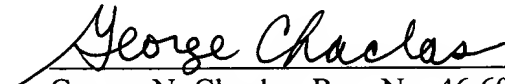
Turning to Claim 10, as noted above Claim 10 has been amended to include all of the limitations of original Claim 11 that was indicated as allowable subject matter. Accordingly, it is believed that Claim 10 and each of the claims depending therefrom distinguish the subject invention from Zhang et al. and withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Any additional fees or overpayments due as a result of filing the present paper may be applied to Deposit Account No. 04-1105. It is respectfully submitted that all of the claims now remaining in this application are in condition for allowance, and such action is earnestly solicited.

If after reviewing this amendment, the Examiner believes that a telephone interview would facilitate the resolution of any remaining matters the undersigned attorney may be contacted at the number set forth herein below.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: December 19, 2003

  
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